

# *California Department of Food & Agriculture*

## **Minutes**

of the Joint Meeting of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board  
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force

Held on Monday, April 23, 2007

CDFA Auditorium

1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

### **PD/GWSS BOARD**

#### **Members Present**

Dennis Atkinson  
Greg Coleman  
Edgar "Pete" Downs  
Ben Drake

Drew Johnson  
Bradford Lange  
Frank Leeds  
Steve McIntyre

Dana Merrill  
Herb Schmidt  
Jim Unti

#### **Members Absent**

Kevin Andrew  
Hugh (Wally) Ewart

Al Rossini  
Steve Schafer

### **PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE**

#### **Members Present**

Nat DiBuduo  
Ben Drake  
David House  
Scott Hudson  
Drew Johnson

Nancy Irelan  
Joe MacIlvaine  
Richard Mounts  
Corky Roche  
John Snyder

Judy Stewart-Leslie  
Beth Stone-Smith  
Craig Weaver  
David Whitmer  
David Wineman

#### **Members Absent**

Kevin Andrew  
Ted Batkin

Larry Bezark  
Steve Nation

Robert Wample

### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

Amadou Ba  
Alan Bennett  
George Bruening  
Tom Esser  
Mike Falasco  
Ken Freeze  
George Gomes

Craig Hanes  
Camron King  
Paul Kronenberg  
Janet LeMasters  
David Morgan  
Greg Morris  
Kari Morrow

Stacie Oswalt  
Ted Rieger  
Roger Spencer  
Rick Standiford  
Nicole Stivers  
Bob Wynn

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Ben Drake, the PD/GWSS Board Chairperson and acting PD Advisory Task Force (ATF) Chairperson.

### **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board and the PD Advisory Task Force. Quorums were present for both groups.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Chairperson Ben Drake again welcomed members and attendees to the meeting. He thanked Research Director Dr. Nancy Irelan and Special Assistant Tom Esser for their work on the research program, and recognized the PD/GWSS Board and ATF members for their continued support by serving on these advisory groups.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force to approve the minutes of the meeting held in Sacramento on January 22, 2007.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next PD/GWSS Board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 28 in Sacramento starting at 10:00 a.m. Key topics would be next year's budget and the winegrape assessment rate for winegrapes harvested and crushed in 2007. The next joint meeting of the PD/GWSS Board and PD ATF was scheduled for November 1 and/or 2, 2007. Locations mentioned were Sonoma, Paso Robles, or Shell Beach.

## **BOARD AND ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP**

Bob Wynn informed Board members that the vacancy on the PD/GWSS Board had been filled with Steve Schafer of Schafer Farms in Madera. On the PD Advisory Task Force, vacancies had been filled with Nat DiBuduo (Allied Grape Growers) and David Wineman (Hampton Farming Company). One vacancy remains on the PD Advisory Task Force and will be filled with someone from the University of California.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

Bob Wynn reported that a serious new insect pest, the light brown apple moth (LBAM), had recently been found in the state. It is a pest of federal concern, so the USDA has also gotten involved. Bob also reported that Hass avocados from Mexico had been cleared to enter California effective February 1, 2007. There are a few surface pest issues and concerns that are being worked on by CDFA, USDA, and Mexico.

Bob acknowledged PDCP staff, especially Melinda Mochel, for organizing, producing, and completing the 2006 Report to the Legislature. This report plays a key role in keeping the Legislature informed about Program activities and progress.

A trip to Washington, D.C. has been scheduled for June 24-26, 2007 to meet with Congressional representatives to discuss the federal budget appropriations for Pierce's disease. Meeting attendees will include Secretary A.G. Kawamura, Bob Wynn, Pete Downs, Ben Drake, Joe MacIlvaine, Herb Schmidt, Joel Nelsen, Karen Ross, Nancy Webb and Judy Stewart-Leslie.

## **FISCAL UPDATE**

Bob Wynn discussed the budgets for the PDCP and the Board. He said that the federal FY 2008 total projected appropriation was \$23 million, versus a total request of \$30 million from the Governor. Bob said there would be a more detailed discussion of the Board's budget at the meeting scheduled at the end of June.

## **UNDERSECRETARY GEORGE GOMES**

Bob Wynn introduced CDFA's new Undersecretary, Mr. George Gomes. Governor Schwarzenegger appointed George Gomes as Undersecretary of CDFA on March 26, 2007.

Undersecretary Gomes told the group how much he appreciated the volunteer work both the PD/GWSS Board and ATF members had provided on behalf of the growers, processors, and producers in California. He stressed the critical role CDFA trapping programs and the border stations play in preventing the

introduction and establishment of agricultural pests and diseases in California. He also acknowledged how important it is to encourage and maintain healthy living and eating in our state by promoting California's products such as fruits, nuts, and vegetables. After discussing many key topics and initiatives, he thanked everyone for allowing him to attend and address the meeting.

### **PIPRA UPDATE**

Alan Bennett gave an update on PIPRA's activities. This included a discussion of the online database of research projects that they developed and how it is assisting with the RSAP process.

### **PIPRA PROPOSAL**

Steve McIntyre led the discussion on the PIPRA proposal for the coming year. In FY 2007-08, PIPRA is proposing to maintain the Pierce's disease intellectual property and literature database, streamline the process for submitting research progress reports, conduct an overall assessment of current intellectual property policies in the research community, and develop a general intellectual property strategy.

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend to the Secretary that the CDFA fund the PIPRA contract for Fiscal Year 2007-08, at an amount not to exceed to \$83,000.

### **RESEARCH FUNDING RECOMMENDATION**

Steve McIntyre presented the research funding recommendation of the PD/GWSS Research Screening Committee. The recommendation was the culmination of an extensive review process conducted jointly with the UC PD Research Grant Program. Because the UC PD Research Grant Program did not receive new funding this year, it was very limited in what new research projects it could fund. Consequently, the Board was asked to recommend CDFA fund most of the projects selected for funding through the joint CDFA-UC review process.

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend to the Secretary that the CDFA fund 14 research projects totaling \$2,056,723. Of these, eight are recommended to receive funding for one year, and six are recommended to receive funding for two years.

### **RESEARCH DIRECTOR UPDATE**

Nancy Irelan provided a review of the past quarter's work. She has been working closely with the newly formed Research Scientific Advisory Panel (RSAP). The main focus was on completion of the PD/GWSS research database, accessing and utilizing the database, and filling in missing information. Nancy also updated the Board and ATF on the RSAP meeting scheduled on May 10-11, 2007 in Bakersfield. The meeting will include a tour of selected vineyards and of the CDFA Biocontrol facility in Arvin. The projected target date for completion of the RSAP's draft report is September 1, 2007. Nancy also noted that Dr. Frank Zalom had resigned from the Panel.

### **ALLOCATING FUNDS FOR THE RSAP**

Tom Esser discussed the need for a budget allocation for the RSAP. He estimated a cost of approximately \$15,000 per meeting.

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend to the Secretary that the CDFA allocate funds to cover the expenses of the Pierce's Disease Research Scientific Advisory Panel for the current fiscal year, at an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

### **RENEWAL OF RESEARCH DIRECTOR CONTRACT**

Tom Esser reported that the Research Director contract was due to expire on June 30, 2007. A decision was needed to either recommend renewing the contract, or letting it expire. After receiving input from the Board, Ben Drake stated they would discuss extending the research director contract without going into a Closed Executive Session. Chairperson Drake did ask Nancy Irelan to excuse herself from the meeting during the time this topic was discussed and voted on.

- ❖ It was **M/S/P** by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend to the Secretary that the CDFA extend the Pierce's Disease Research Director contract with Dr. Nancy Irelan for an additional year, at an amount not to exceed to \$187,221.

#### **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE**

Roger Spencer reported the contract for Brown-Miller Communications had been renewed. The Outreach Subcommittee was meeting with Brown-Miller quarterly to discuss various future activities. The next meeting would be held in the latter part of May or in June.

Ken Freeze of Brown-Miller Communications briefly summarized recent outreach and education activities. He mentioned a new brochure, the latest newsletter, interviews with university scientists and program staff, the results from a grower survey, and a new item they developed called the B-Blast, for distributing information to various groups. Ken also mentioned various events that Brown-Miller would be attending throughout the year, and the online PD Internet forum.

#### **AREAWIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

Beth Stone-Smith provided an update on the areawide projects in Kern, Riverside, Tulare, and Ventura counties. She discussed trapping and treatment activities and results in the different areas.

#### **NURSERY SHIPMENT APPROVED TREATMENT PILOT PROJECT UPDATE**

David House, Chair of the Nursery Subcommittee, stated they had formed an ad hoc committee. Members included commercial nursery representatives, PDCP staff, and agricultural commissioners. The final draft of the protocol would be submitted to the CACASA working group by the end of May.

#### **PIERCE'S DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM UPDATE**

**Nursery Update:** Greg Morris provided updates on the nursery regulatory program and the nursery stock approved treatment pilot project. Up to April of this year, there have been 20,226 total nursery shipments. There were 2,832 more shipments than the same time last year. So far there has only been one rejection. For the Pilot Project, there have been four shipments and 17 egg masses. At this point the shipments have not been released yet.

**PDCP Bulk Citrus and Rapid Response Update:** Craig Hanes gave an update on bulk citrus and rapid response activities. He reported that there has been only one bulk citrus rejection during this shipping season. For rapid response, a new infestation was found in Santa Clara County in July, in an area known as Evergreen. Other counties with rapid response activities include Solano County, Sacramento County, Fresno County, and Tulare County.

**Biocontrol Update:** David Morgan reported on the continuing progress of the biocontrol program. He said they are releasing biocontrol agents in urban areas in Ventura, Tulare, San Diego, and San Bernardino counties.

**EIR:** Tom Esser reported that the Program is considering hiring an environmental consulting firm to prepare the additional environmental documents required by the court's ruling.

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

None.

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.